City of Falls Church Recreation & Parks Department Summer Fun Playground Program Parent Handbook

Purpose:

The purpose of the Summer Fun Playground Programs is to provide a fun-filled summer for your child in a safe, supervised, wholesome environment from June 21 – August 13 (eight weeks). Staff will lead activities in games, sports, arts and crafts and field trips. Time is also available for swimming and unstructured play.

Location:

The picnic shelter in Cherry Hill Park is the camp's primary location. Other locations which will be utilized include the Gage House, Community Center and the pool located at Park Towers on the corner of Maple Avenue and Great Falls Street in Falls Church. Children must be signed out at the picnic shelter. The sign out procedure is on page 3.

Contact Information:

The following numbers are provided to assist you with any questions you may have.

Community Center	(703) 248-5027	
Andre` Jackson, Camp Director	(703) 248-5027	
Amy Maltese, Camp Coordinator	(703) 248-5307	amaltese@fallschurchva.gov
Debbie Woodbury, Program Supervisor	(703) 248-5137	dwoodbury@fallschurchva.gov
Jenny Elmore, Senior Program Supervisor	(703) 248-5199	jelmore@fallschurchva.gov
Danny Schlitt, Deputy Director	(703) 248-5138	dschlitt@fallschurchva.gov





The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability call 703-248-5077 (TTY 711)

Hours of Operation:

The playground program is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. **There is no camp program on Monday, July 5, 2010.** Children should **not** be dropped off before 9am and should be picked up by 3pm. The Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department offers a morning care program from 7-9 a.m. for \$28/week and an afternoon care program from 3-6 p.m. for \$38/week.

The Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department realizes emergencies do occur, so please call the Community Center office (703-248-5027) if you will be late to pick up your child. In the event that a child is not picked up by 3:15 p.m., the child is taken to extended care and will be charged the full rate of extended care which is \$38/week. This fee must be paid the following day before the child can return to the playground program. Frequent or recurring late pick-ups may result in suspension or termination from the program.

Our Staff:

Our Counselor staff is comprised of nine adults who have childcare experience, enthusiasm, and enjoy spending time with children. All counselors are screened through a criminal background screening and drug test. All staff are certified in CPR and First Aid. Orientation and training are provided to all staff prior to the start of camp.

Our counselors in training (CIT's) are students entering at minimum, eighth grade. New CIT applicants complete a questionnaire and experience a group interview. Selected candidates along with returning CIT's experience a training program similar to that of the counselors prior to the start of camp. CIT's assist counselors with organizing activities and interacting with the campers.

Our Camp Director, Andre' Jackson is with us again serving his 10th year as the Summer Fun Camp Director and has 21 years invested in Recreation and Parks Camping programs throughout DC, MD and VA. Andre started out as a counselor at an overnight camp through the DC Department of Recreation. After a few years, Andre was promoted to Senior Counselor and held that seasonal position for 9 years before bringing his experience and knowledge to the Falls Church Camping program. "The thing that drives me to do this job every year is the campers. I love to see them get excited about learning new things and just learning to be social with the counselors and other campers. The impact that we have on them is truly rewarding."

Pick up/drop off procedures:

Sign-in procedures are as followed: Camp starts at **9:00am** in the Cherry Hill Picnic Shelter. When you drop your child off at the shelter you should leave him/her with the counselor that is assigned to your child. Sign in sheets will be located at the entrance to the pavilion. For our records and your child's safety, please make sure you sign in and out daily.

Sign-out procedures are as followed: Your child will only be released to those persons identified on the Emergency Information Form or if an additional note had been sent to camp prior to. **Photo identification will be required for ALL persons picking up campers** (this includes parents, siblings, etc.). You must sign out your child with your child's counselor after showing proper identification.

Written notes:

The Summer Fun Playground Program is a camp program. Attendance is taken daily. Under the following circumstances, it is required that you send a written note to camp:

- If your child will be leaving camp early.
- If your child will be walking or riding a bike to or from camp.

• If someone other than a parent or designated individual as noted on your child's emergency information form will be picking the child up from camp (this includes siblings, grandparents, etc.).

In your note, please include the child's name, the date(s) affected, the name of the person picking up the child (if applicable), and the parent/guardian's signature. Please try to give advance notice whenever possible. Also, please try to limit these requests as the camp schedule can become very busy. Unless a note has been sent to camp indicating that someone other than the parent will be picking up the child, the staff will only release the child to a parent. This policy has been established for your child's safety, so please be sure to inform staff of any changes in your pick-up or drop-off plans. E-mails will not be accepted. If necessary, you can fax a note to (703) 536-8150

Meals:

Children should bring lunch daily. Please note that microwaves and refrigeration are not available, so plan accordingly. Soda (\$1.25) and snack (¢.50-¢.85) machines as well as water fountains are available at the Community Center. Beverages may be brought from home, but not in glass containers. Many camp activities are outside and summer days can get hot. Therefore, the Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department suggests you to send a water bottle with your child each day.

Health:

Your child's health and safety are very important to us. If your child has a special medical problem or allergy, etc., it should be noted on your child's emergency information form. If you have any further concerns, please feel free to speak with the camp director or your child's counselor.

1. Illness

If your child becomes ill or has a fever, the Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department discourages their participation. Do not bring sick children to the program. If a child becomes ill during the program, a parent will be notified and asked to pick up the child. If a parent is unavailable, the emergency contact will be called. Your child must be fever free (**lower than 100.4 degrees**) for 24 hours before returning to the program. This is for the protection of all the children in the program.

In the case of a communicable disease, please notify Camp Staff immediately. All parents at the site will be notified as soon as possible. Your cooperation is appreciated.

2. Medical Emergencies

The Recreation and Parks Department does not provide accident insurance. Payment for medical services due to an accident/injury is the responsibility of the parent. An emergency information sheet (with your child's insurance information) needs to be completed for each child. You must complete this form before the start of camp. The Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department must be able to reach parents or legal guardians during the day in case of any emergency. If your child is injured and requires more than basic first aid the following steps will be taken:

- a. Staff will call 911.
- b. The parent or guardian will be contacted.
- c. If the parent or guardian is not available then the persons listed on the information form will be contacted.
- d. Paramedics will take the injured child to the closest hospital.

If your child becomes ill or needs to be picked up, you or a designated person needs to arrive within 30 minutes.

You will be responsible for the emergency medical charges for all services rendered. Your authorization and your commitment for payment was part of the release form signed at the time of registration.

City of Falls Church employees are not permitted to transport injured parties in city or personal vehicles.

3. Medication

Staff prefers not to dispense medication during camp hours. In the event a child must have medication, the parents should do the following:

- a. Communicate the need to the Camp Director for approval.
- b. Put all directions in writing on the designated form. Forms are included in this packet. The medication and completed form must be completed and returned to the Camp Director the first day of camp in order for the Director to dispense medication.
- c. Medication must be in its original container, with its prescription label in-tact.

Staff reserves the right to refuse to dispense medication.

A medication release form must also be submitted for nonprescription over-thecounter medicines such as Tylenol, Benadryl etc.

Items to bring daily:

Campers should bring a lunch daily that does not require refrigeration. If your child stays at the Community Center until 6pm, he/she should bring along a nutritious snack for an energy boost later in the afternoon. All campers need to bring a swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen (to be applied by campers only) each day they swim. Items should be carried in a plastic bag or backpack clearly labeled with the child's name. Our camp offers a wide variety of activities; please refrain from sending "at home" toys or valuable items to camp. The Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department cannot be responsible for any lost or stolen items regardless of value.

Special activities/Field Trips:

Some of our special activities require children to bring material from home, such as for arts and crafts projects, a bathing suit for swimming, and a change of clothes for water activities. Please be sure your child brings the required items so he/she can participate in the activity. Movies may be shown as a special event (rated G or PG).

There will be at least one field trip a week. On field trip days, <u>NO</u> counselors will stay behind for children unable to participate in the field trip. <u>THE CAMP SITE IS CLOSED!</u> A field trip listing follows the manual. Field trip registration begins May 1 and must be completed by June 15. A registration form also follows.

Daily schedule:

Weather permitting, activities will be held outside. The schedule is subject to change depending upon weather (rain/temperature) and facility availability. Our planned daily schedules include games indoor/outdoor, arts and crafts, sports, special events and free time. A SAMPLE schedule is included.

Weekly Themes:

June 21-25	Spring into Summer
June 28-July 2	Celebrations of Nations
July 5-9	Go Green
July 12-16	Super Sleuths
July 19-23	Challenge Week
July 26-30	Happy Holidays
August 2-6	Creative Campers

August 9-13 It's So Hard to Say Goodbye

Camp attire:

Campers should wear clothing that is durable and comfortable. Sunglasses, hat or visor are recommended. Weather permitting, many of our activities will be held outdoors, so please be sure to send your campers with a jacket/sweatshirt on cool days. Gym shoes and socks should be worn at all times (no sandals, crocks, clogs, etc.). Remember, it is easy to get dirty at camp! Art projects can also get messy at times. If your child has a smock or old shirt that could be used as a smock, please label it with his/her name and send it along to camp. Parents should apply sunscreen to campers each morning before arriving to camp. Sunscreen should also be brought to camp daily. Campers should know how to apply sunscreen on themselves as staff are not permitted to do so.

Discipline:

Campers are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. The following guidelines were developed to help make the program safe and enjoyable for all participants. Additional rules may be developed as deemed necessary by staff.

Participants shall:

- 1. Show respect to all participants and staff and take direction from staff.
- 2. Refrain from using abusive or foul language.
- 3. Refrain from causing bodily harm to self, other participants, or staff.
- 4. Show respect to equipment, supplies, and facilities.

A positive approach will be used regarding discipline. Staff will periodically review rules with participants during the program session. If inappropriate behavior occurs, prompt resolution will be sought specific to each individual situation. Conduct report forms will be used and parents will be notified. For severe or repetitive inappropriate behavior, suspension or termination from camp may be necessary. The Camp Director reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose behavior endangers the safety of others or one's self.

If your child is dismissed from the playground program, no refund will be given. The Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department reserves the right to dismiss a child if the child disobeys the established rules of the program over a period, or is unable to participate in a group. The following are some examples of behaviors that will not be tolerated against other children or staff members, and will be cause for disciplinary action: assault/profanity, stealing, biting, spitting, refusal to cooperate, leaving the park grounds without permission, sexual misconduct and bullying. The possession or use of weapons, drugs and tobacco will be cause for immediate and permanent dismissal with no refund.

The formal disciplinary action process is documented and is as follows:

- 1. First offense- Counselor and Director will talk to the child and notify the parent. An incident report is completed and sent home. First offense of weapons, drugs and tobacco will result in immediate and permanent dismissal with no refund.
- 2. Second offense Dismissal is considered. The Counselor, Director and/or Camp Coordinator will notify parents. An incident report will be completed and sent home.
- 3. Third offense The child will be dismissed from the Playground Program and no refund will be issued. An incident report will be completed and sent home.

Children that have been dismissed from the program for disciplinary reasons may not be permitted to continue in any Recreation and Parks Division program for the remainder of the summer.

Swimming:

All campers must have a signed permission slip in order to go swimming. This form is enclosed. In addition to the counselors, certified lifeguards will supervise campers during all swim activities. Due to the large number of participants in Summer Fun, staff will divide swim time for safety reasons. Campers will walk to the Park Towers Condominium Pool. Campers entering first through third grade will swim Tuesdays and Fridays. Campers entering fourth through sixth grade will swim Mondays and Wednesdays. Upon arriving to the pool, swim tests are conducted by the lifeguards to determine the depth at which each child can swim.

If there is a field trip scheduled on your child's swim day, they will swim the Thursday of that week. There is no transportation to swim lessons on the day of field trips.

In the event of thunder and lightning, an alternate activity will be scheduled. Campers should bring a swimsuit and towel regardless of the weather in the morning. Please remember to bring sunscreen (remember staff cannot apply sunscreen to campers)! The weather changes very quickly in the summer. Staff do not want to leave anyone out of the pool for not bringing his or her swim gear.

Suspected abuse or neglect:

In accordance with the procedures set forth in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, any camp personnel having reasonable cause to believe that a child known to them in their professional capacity may be an abused or neglected child shall immediately report the matter to their supervisor. The proper authorities will be notified.

Shelter-In-Place:

The Community Center has a shelter-in-place policy that would take affect in the event of a chemical accident or terrorist attack. The Dance studio and kitchen are the designated shelter-in-place locations at the Community Center. The storage room is also used as overflow. The downstairs restrooms are used for individuals who enter the building after all other rooms have been sealed. In the event of a shelter-in-place emergency, staff will secure camper contact information, escort campers to the designated areas and conduct a head count upon arrival. This site is designed to shelter individuals for a short period (3-4) hours. NOAA radios, "go bags", food and water are kept onsite for such an emergency.

Camp T-Shirts:

A camp T-shirt will be distributed to your child on the Tuesday or Wednesday the first week your child is in camp. If your child is enrolled for multiple weeks, they will receive one T-shirt. Camp T-shirt must be worn to all field trips.

Inclement weather:

Staff will carefully monitor the weather and will not swim in the event of thunder or lightning. If the weather turns poor while at the pool, staff will immediately return to the campsite.

*Extended Care Note:

Any child being picked-up after the scheduled time of 6pm will incur a late pick-up fee. The late fee will begin at 6:05pm and after that time a \$1/minute charge will follow. Payment is payable at the time you pick up your child and is payable to "Virgil Seay Sports and Activities".

Cancellation Policy:

The Recreation & Parks Department will provide a full credit or refund for any summer camp if the camp is canceled by the Department or *upon request* when schedule or location changes made by the Department prohibit or limit an individual's ability to attend a camp.

To request a credit or refund for any reason other than those stated above a "Request for Refund/Household Credit must be completed and submitted. All requests are handled using the following guidelines:

- When a request is made fourteen or more calendar days before the activity starts a refund is granted less a 20% processing fee and a credit is granted less a 10% processing fee.
- When a request is made less than fourteen calendar days before a camp starts no refund or credit will be granted unless there is a medical reason (doctor's note required) or for relocation of at least 25 miles from the City of Falls Church. If a refund or credit is granted for medical reasons or because a class participant has moved the refund will be assessed a 20% processing fee or the credit a 10% processing fee.
- No refunds or credits will be granted once a camp has ended





We are looking forward to a great summer!

SUMMER FUN FIELD TRIPS

The field trip permission form is due June 15!

Some trips require advance notice of the number of participants. Therefore, if your child is registered late, there may not be any availability. Additionally, transportation is also scheduled in advance. We may not be able to accommodate late registrations if there is no more space on the bus.

- © Campers should always be prompt to camp on field trip days. Children arriving late may miss the bus. If a child misses the bus, there is no alternate transportation.
- © Participants must wear their camp T-shirt on field trip days!
- © The Summer Fun Playground Program is closed on all field trip days. Summer school participants must make alternate plans.
- © For swimming field trips, children will wear a bright colored wristband. When campers are out of the water, they must wear their camp T-shirt.
- © On field trip days, there is no transportation to swim lessons.
- © All field trips utilize a City of Falls Church school bus.

Friday, June 25 <u>Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole</u> Activity # 385004-A

1400 Lake Fairfax Dr., Reston, VA 20190

Cost to participate: \$15

This water park features the Rattlesnake River, slides, interactive play features and more! Campers can climb up Pete's Peak and slide down Big Pete or Little Pete.

Please bring a bag lunch, bathing suit, towel, sunscreen and change of clothes.

Thursday, July 1 National Museum of the American Indian Activity # 385004-B

(703) 471-5415

Fourth Street & Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20560 (202) 633-1000

Cost to participate: \$5

Campers will tour the museum, interactive exhibits and watch themed videos tailored to children.

Please bring a bag lunch.

Thursday, July 8 Mason Neck State Park Activity # 385004-C

7301 High Point Road, Lorton, VA 22079 (703) 339-2385

Cost for participate: \$8

Campers will walk through the park, make use of the picnic shelter and in small groups, participate in

science experiments!

Please bring a bag lunch.

Thursday, July 15

Burke Lake Park

Activity # 385004-D

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

(703) 323-6600

Cost to participate: \$13

Campers will participate in a scavenger hunt created especially for our camp, take a 1.7 mile train ride, play mini-golf and enjoy the beautiful outdoors are Burke Lake Park!

Please bring a bag lunch.



Wendesday, July 21 Washington Mystics

Activity # 385004-E

Verizon Center - 601 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004

(202) 661-5000

Cost to participate: \$15

Campers will witness the Washington Mystics take on the Atlanta Dream in their special camp game!

Please bring a bag lunch.

Thursday, July 29

Cabin John Ice Rink

Activity # 385004-F

10610 Westlake Drive, Rockville, MD 20852

(301) 765-8620

Cost to participate: \$12

Whether you are a novice or an expert, come show off your skills and cool off from the hot summer

weather at Cabin John Ice Rink.

Please bring a bag lunch.

Thursday, August 5 Wolf Trap Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods

Activity # 385004-G

1645 Trap Road, Vienna, Virginia 22182

(703) 255-1868

Cost to participate: \$11

Campers will view "Wolf Trap Opera Studio", an exciting performance featuring

witches, kings, batman and more!

Please bring a bag lunch.



Thursday, August 12 <u>Algonkian – Downpour Water Park</u> Activit

Activity # 385004-H

Algonkian Regional Park- 47001 Fairway Drive, Sterling Virginia 20165

(703) 450-4655

Always a camp favorite! Participants will enjoy water slides, a water play area and swimming

Cost to participate: \$13

Please bring a bag lunch, bathing suit, towel, sunscreen and change of clothes.



City of Falls Church

Field Trip Permission Form

The field trip permission form is due June 15!

I do not normit my ob		1 0	eld trips listed belov	N.		
Summer Fun Playgrou	hild, und program'	s field trips.	, to participate in	the Falls Church Red	creation and P	arks
Parent/Guardian Signa	ature:			Date:		
*To guarantee your cl June 15, 2010. Failure all field trips to the Fall *Please ensure your cl Playground program w	e to pay could ls Church Cou hild arrives a fill be CLOSE	I prevent your mmunity Cente at camp promp	child from attending. All methods of particular at 9am on field	ng the field trips. Ple yment are accepted. trip days. Please note	ase submit pay the Summer F	ment for
campers on field trip da	ays.					
<u>Date</u>		ocation		Cost	Activ	
Friday, June 25		ater Mine		\$15	38500	
Thursday, July 1			m of the American		38500	
Thursday, July 8		ason Neck Sta		\$8	38500	
Thursday, July 15		ırke Lake Parl		\$13	38500	
Wednesday, July 21		ashington My		\$15	38500	
Thursday, July 29		abin John Ice I		\$12	38500	
Thursday, August 5			tre-in-the-Woods	\$11	38500	
Thursday, August 12	De	ownpour Wate	r Park at Algonkiar	n \$13	38500	04-H
Credit Card: cir Credit Card Number:_ Card Holder Signature				xp Date:		
Participant Name	Male/Female	Date of Birth	Activity Code	Activity Name	Waiver Initial	Activity Fee



City of Falls Church Swim Trip Permission Form

I hereby give permission for my child,	, t	o participate in the Fa	alls Church
Recreation and Parks Summer Fun Playground	d program's swim	trips to the Park Tov	ver's pool
located on Maple Avenue in Falls Church.			
Please circle child's swim ability level:	Non-swimmer	Some Experience	Experienced
I do not permit my child,	, to participat	te in the Falls Church	Recreation
and Parks Summer Fun Playground program's s	wim trips to the Pa	ark Tower's pool loca	nted on Maple
Avenue in Falls Church.			
*Please see attached daily schedule for specific s *Please note the day a child participates in swim entering in the fall. *If your child decides not to swim, he or she wil children. *Each child will take a swimming ability test to	iming is determine	ed by which grade he y Hill Park with other	or she is Summer Fun
Parent's/Guardian's Signature		Date	
City of F Bike/Walk P	alls Church ermission F		
I hearby give permission for my child,	yground program	bike or walk to and fr at Cherry Hill Park.	om the Falls
*Only children entering 5 th grade and up are peri	mitted to walk to a	and from Cherry Hill	Park.
*Children will not be dismissed to walk/bike ho guardian is provided for the dates the child is per	•		child's parent or
Parent/Guardian Signature:		Date:	

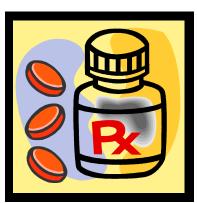
MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION

I certi	fy that, in my o	pinion, it is medically necessary that the medication described below be
administered	to	during camp hours and that the camp staff may administen
this medication	on.	
Prescription:	Medication:	
	Dosage & Tir	me:
	Duration:	
	Date of Presc	ription:
		
		(Signature of Physician)
		(Date)
I.		, parent/guardian of,
		for administer the medication prescribed above to my child during camp
_	_	person who will administer the medication may be inexperienced. I also
		tion in the original container with the label intact.
agree to rurin	sii said iliculcai	ion in the original container with the laber intact.
		(Signature of parent or guardian)
		
		(Date)

Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department 223 Little Falls Street Falls Church, Va. 22046 (703) 248-5077

Medication Release Form

Child's Name:	
Medication Information:	
Name of Medication:	
Please describe what medication is for:	
Instructions on how to give medication:	
Amount:	
Time:	
Number of days/Doses:	
Special Instructions:	
Parent's/Guardian's Signature	
Emergency Contact Phone Number	



City of Falls Church Emergency Care Information

In case of an emergency, the camp staff will contact 911. Every attempt will be made to contact a parent/guardian or a designated emergency contact. The camp has my permission, in an emergency when I cannot by contacted, to take my child to the emergency room of the nearest hospital and its medical staff have my authorization to provide treatment which a physician deems necessary for the well-being of my child.

RENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:		DATE:		
Camper Name:				
Last	First	Middle		
Name of Camp:	Date of Birth:	Sex:	Grade as of September 2010:	
Language Spoken at Home:	I		I	
Student resides with: FATHER, M	MOTHER, DOTH, LE	GAL GUARDIAN		
FATHER's Name		П ()		
(Last, First and Middle)		Home ()		
FATHER's Address:		Work ()		
		Pager/Cell ()		
MOTHER's Name (Last, First and Middle)		Home ()		
MOTHER's Address:		Work ()		
MOTHER'S Address.		Pager/Cell ()		
LEGAL GUARDIAN's Name				
(Last, First and Middle)		Home ()		
GUARDIAN's Address:		Work ()		
LIST 2 LOCAL PERSONS WE SHOULD Name of Person	CALL IN AN EMERGENCY IF Relationship		CANNONT BE REACHED: Telephone	
1.		()		
2.		()		
	ADDITIONAL IN			
Name of Health Insurance Company		Name of Student's Physician		
Policy/Group/Employee Number	HMO Number, if applicable	Physician's Tele	-	
	MEDICAL INFO	ORMATION		
How do medical and/or health conditions at		List all medications and dosaş	ges you child receives on a continual	
None Allergies (be specific) Foods Medicines Bee Sting/Insect Asthma Diabetes Hearing Problems		basis: Is medication required during camp hours? Yes If yes, complete medical forms No		
		Others (be specific): Special Procedure:		